



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Thursday, June 1, 2017**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Lake County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Members Present: Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA (via phone), Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – UI Labs, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Mike Sullivan (for Pete Harmet) – IDOT, Patty Werner (for Mike Warner) – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Andrew Szwak – Openlands, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation

Members Absent: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Staff Present: Lindsay Bayley, Anthony Cefali, Brian Daly, Kristin Ihnchak, Jason Navota, Jared Patton, Kelsey Pudlock

Others Present: Mike Prusila – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

1.0 Call to Order

Jack Darin called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 4 meeting was made by Martha Dooley, seconded by Sean Wiedel. The motion carried with all in favor.

4.0 ON TO 2050: Preview Report Draft – Kristin Ihnchak, CMAP staff

The ON TO 2050 Preview Report, which will be released for CMAP working committee review on June 2, introduces the three proposed cross-cutting principles for ON TO 2050 as well as its preliminary major recommendations. Using a [presentation](#), Ihnchak

provided an overview and requested the Environment and Natural Resources Committee's initial feedback. Ihnchak also requested more detailed feedback by June 16. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- **Discussion on inclusive growth terminology:** Although terms are included in the report, CMAP staff intends to refine their meaning over the next two months through conversations with working committee members and more in depth analysis prior to their inclusion in the draft plan.
- **Inclusion of environment:** The On TO 2050 Preview Report encompass all aspects of ON TO 2050, not just environment and natural resources. Green infrastructure is not identified directly in the report, however it is included within the principle, prioritized investments.
- **Discussion on layers:** CMAP intends to publically share data that is used to create the layers, under the condition that there are no data restrictions and pending approval from the partners that provided the data to CMAP staff.
- **Review and document feedback:** ENR committee members suggested that the report be shared through Google docs, or another collaborative editing tool, to accept changes from multiple users. This would also allow members to see and build upon other members' comments.

5.0 ON TO 2050: Non-motorized Transportation Memo – Lindsay Bayley, CMAP Staff

Enabling safe, convenient, and comfortable non-motorized transportation options for all our region's residents will help to create vibrant communities, improve equity and public health, and support local economies. This report investigates safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, trends in bicycling, trends in walking, and the importance of creating walkable places. Using a [presentation](#), Bayley presented the latest findings. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- **Pedestrian and bicyclist crash trends:** CMAP wanted to confirm that there is a regional trend in crashes and fatalities between commercial vehicles and bicyclists. Sean Wiedel, Chicago Department of Transportation, indicated that the trend likely exists because it's also seen within the City of Chicago. Although there also seems to be a correlation with visibility (i.e. daylight), it was suggested to compare the pedestrian/bicyclist crash and fatality data with vehicle crash and fatality data to see if there is a correlation with end-of-day driving behavior (e.g. impatience and carelessness).
- **Data limitations:** It was suggested that ridership trends may be greater than the analysis indicates because the datasets do not capture multiple-mode travel behavior. IDOT recently released crash data for 2015, however, crash analyses were completed with 2014 data. CMAP currently does not have access planimetric data.
- **The use of findings to inform and/or help develop recommendations:** While the exact use is still to be determined, there is interest in overlaying spatial analysis results with infill development to help improve infill strategies. Findings can also be used to look at ways in which different transportation modes can be incorporated into other recommendations, such as those within Planning Programming. Non-motorized transportation is a snapshot rather than a strategy

because GO TO 2040 recommendations are still relevant. However, there was an interest in examining new case studies that support ON TO 2050 recommendations.

6.0 ON TO 2050: Local Food Memo – Brian Daly, CMAP Staff

As part of ON TO 2050 development, CMAP has prepared a Local Food memo, which provides an overview of trends in food production, the number and characteristics of farms, the value of agricultural products sold in the region, and recent and ongoing activities in the local food policy area. Using a [presentation](#), Daly presented the [draft Local Food memo](#). Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- **Production trends:** The total number of farms were determined by counting the number of parcels. The dollar value of agricultural products are growing. While this growth could be attributed to a number of factors, committee members cautioned that 2012 data can skew trend lines because there was a substantial drought that year; farmers switched to irrigation as well as removed and/or replaced crops to combat drought conditions.
- **Urban agriculture trends:** Members questioned if the memo acknowledge that urban agriculture is a growing trends. Despite recent research and development investments, urban agriculture from a production standpoint is still relatively small. The memo primarily looks at the past production trends, and talks about urban agriculture with respect to partners' interests and programs that currently exist in the region.
- **Farmland conversion:** Although most conversions are localized, committee members cautioned that some counties with agricultural land holdings may ultimately be waiting to restore lands into natural areas. Otherwise, two major barriers are development pressures and paltry tax revenues. CMAP was a part of a multi-state regional study that estimated the region's consumption of regionally produced food has the potential to increase by 1.5%.
- **Local plan implementation:** There are 30 plans with recommendations that address food production and 26 plans with recommendations that address food access. CMAP staff reaches out to communities with recently completed plans on a regular basis. Staff also track progress through CMAP's annual report to the board, as well as through internal, quarterly reports. Progress is modest and happening primarily around urban agriculture.
- **Role of transportation:** With transportation as a common thread through ON TO 2050, it would beneficial to illustrate the relationship between food production and transportation access; infrastructure investments will also be important to ensure crop production and distribution can continue.

7.0 ON TO 2050: Water Strategy Paper – Jason Navota, CMAP Staff

Water 2050 and GO TO 2040 recognized the water supply, water quality, and wastewater planning challenges facing the region and emphasized demand management and resource protection strategies. CMAP is exploring new approaches to water resource planning as part of the development of the next plan. Using a [presentation](#), Navota presented the draft policy framework for the next plan and requested committee feedback on the [draft Water Strategy Paper](#) by June 13. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- **Discussion on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM):**
Adopting a more cohesive approach to plan and manage the region's water resources will be applicable to private utility companies, in addition to public entities. With over 400 private utilities provides services to northeastern Illinois, there are also opportunities for service sharing.

- **Municipal and county authority conflicts:** There was a general consensus that the region could benefit from using watershed planning to improve water quality, control flooding, and protect water supply at the source. However, anything associated with the term, land use, will not be well received by municipalities because of fear of reduced municipal authority; these issues also arise with water supply planning, especially if it's being addressed outside of 'infrastructure'.
- **Watershed workgroups:** Greenseams is a Milwaukee based program that illustrates how a regional public entity is working applying watershed planning concepts at a regional scale. There is also a new Des Plaines and North Branch workgroup that is underway for the area north of Dempster.
- **Relevant tools and data:** Illinois State Water Survey is developing a tool to help with water supplies and utilities. NASA has a macro-level water supply dataset that may be able to help inform planning and decision-making at the regional scale.
- **Discussion of Water Resources Strategy scope and framework:**
It was suggested that sediments and total suspended solids (TSS)—in addition to nutrients, chlorides, and emerging pollutants—should be identified as priority pollutants. An underlying theme of public health throughout the Water Resources Strategy paper could serve as a leverage point to help prompt infrastructure investments. In light of water supply challenges, the paper should also acknowledge the unique opportunities for water innovation and economic development because of the low cost (and therefore, low risk) of water in the region.

8.0 Other Business.

None.

9.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, July 6, 2017.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Pudlock and Nora Beck (ENR
Committee Liaison)
June 1, 2017